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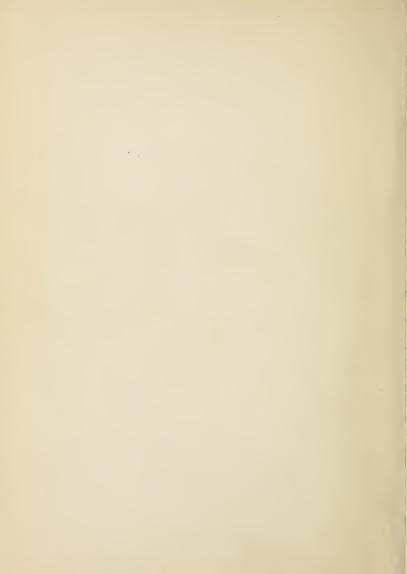
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.









# RAYS

OF

# SUNSHINE

FOR

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

BY

S. C.

66783-B<sup>2</sup>/

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# Preface.

HILE in Scotland last summer, the idea suddenly came to me of writing a year book. These daily thoughts do not in the least aim at any literary merit: the style is, for the most part, conversational and very informal. If a word, here and there, brings comfort or encouragement to some wayfarer on life's journey, my object in writing will have been accomplished.

I dedicate this little volume to my family and friends, and any one who may be interested in reading its pages. It takes them, one and all, a loving "God bless you," and a prayer that it may be a ray of sunshine in their lives.



# Rays of Sunsbine.

# January 1.

Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.—St. Matt. xxviii. 20.

With this glorious promise ringing in our ears, we can take fresh courage for the new year on which we are entering. Instead of making many rash promises to reform, let us put each new resolution into immediate practice, and in this way gain strength for the succeeding one.

#### January 2.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.—Eph. vi. 11.

Many of us are apt to think, in this nineteenth century, that part of the armor is amply sufficient to resist the enemy; but never have we had greater need of putting on the whole armor, because we are liable now of being attacked in the most unexpected ways.

# January 3.

Until the day break, and the shadows flee away.—Song of Sol. ii. 17.

It is when the skies are dark and starless that we should fix our gaze on the bright outlook beyond. This faith in the future will keep us from despairing, and give us strength to live bravely through the dreary days that must still intervene.

# January 4.

Thy kingdom come . . . in earth, as it is in heaven.—St. Matt. vi. 10.

Did we only truly realize that heaven is wherever we recognize God's presence, how much more earnestly would we try to spread the good news! By so doing we would be helping forward God's kingdom here on earth.

# January 5.

Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.—Rom. xii. 21.

Before the high standard of Right, wrong can never hold its own; ere long it must retreat in shame to the darkness where it belongs.

# January 6.

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.—Psa. xxiv. 1.

Earth's cram'ed with heaven, And every common bush after with God, But only he who sees, Takes off his shoes.—E. B. Browning.

Just as a painting shows the character of the artist, so the earth, God's great picture, reveals Him to us. Let us see well that our eyes are not blinded to all the wonders that lie about us.

#### January 7.

Faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect.—Jas. ii. 22.

Actions are the living pledges which prove that our beliefs are vital. By working out that which we already know we prepare ourselves for receiving new and greater truths.

# January 8.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.—I. Tim. vi. 12.

Let us never rest content with past victories, but with our new-gained strength let us press earnestly on to higher conquests. Fresh obstacles are sure to arise, but with God's help, we will as surely be able to overcome them.

#### January 9.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear. . . He that feareth is not made perfect in love.—I. John iv. 18.

If our hearts are full to overflowing with a great love, there will be no room for bad and unworthy thoughts. Evil cannot exist in the presence of good, because one is weak and negative, whereas the other is strong and positive.

# January 10.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.
—Isa. xxvi. 3.

That greatest of blessings, perfect peace, seems, at times, impossible to obtain. Do we not struggle for it with an ever-restless longing, instead of calmly taking God at His word, and believing that it is ours for the asking?

# January 11.

Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.—Gal. vi. 9.

After we have struggled a long time to conquer some besetting sin, and then find it still masters us, we are apt to become disheartened. The difference between a moral and temporal victory is that the results of one are seldom seen, whereas the triumphs of the other are at once apparent.

# January 12.

Pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.—Acts viii. 22.

If we did but realize that we were responsible for our thoughts, as well as for our actions, we would be far more careful in holding them in check. If they get beyond our control it is impossible to tell what mischief they will work.

# January 13.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man.—I. Cor. x. 13.

When sorely tempted it is easy to think that the temptation is peculiar to ourselves, and that it is impossible for anyone else to understand the nature of our struggle. So we hold ourselves aloof, whereas we might be taking the sympathy and help our friends are so willing to give us.

#### January 14.

Ask, and it shall be given you.— St. Matt. vii. 7.

Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.—St. Matt. vi. 32.

In praying we should try to make our wills so at one with the divine, that we will only want those things which God sees best to give us. If some cherished wish is withheld, we know that it must be for a wise purpose.

#### January 15.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—St. John xx. 29.

Whom having not seen, ye love.
—I. Peter i. 8.

Most of us have our seasons of doubt to struggle through. If we are really earnest seekers for the Light, it must at length come. And then it will mean all the more to us because of our long period of waiting.

# January 16.

As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.—St. John xx. 21.

Think, dear friends, of the great mission with which Jesus has entrusted you! If you have not yet been faithful in your trust, begin this moment to redeem your past by filling the present with loving service to the dear Master who has done so much for you.

# January 17.

Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, . . . let us run with patience the race that is set before us.—Heb. xii. I.

Is it not likely that our dear loved ones should be among the cloud of witnesses who surround us? If so, then their lives are still indissolubly connected with ours, and we need no longer think of them as far distant from us.

# January 18.

Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for.—Acts x. 29.

Instead of waiting a long time in making up our minds as to whether or not we will answer a call made on us, let us offer our help without delay, and be one of those valuable persons who are always at hand when needed.

# January 19.

Jesus of Nazareth... went about doing good, ... for God was with him.—Acts x. 38.

When we see a person lovingly busy in helping others, we ask "What is the secret of his power?"

The answer is usually not hard to find. A heart full of love to God must let itself overflow in love to its fellowmen.

# January 20.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.—Heb. x. 35.

If one whom you love sorely disappoints you, do not thrust him aside. By continuing to trust him you may act as a turning point in his life. Others may fail you, but that is all the more reason you should not fail them.

# January 21.

Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?—Acts ix. 6.

If we are really earnest in asking this question, then, instead of calmly sitting still, doing nothing, we will at once undertake the duty that lies nearest to us. Even while accomplishing it, God will throw light on the next work He wishes us to do.

# January 22.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another.—
Jas. v. 16.

By talking over our faults with friends, they show us our weak points and the way to conquer them. Some faults are so subtle and ingrained, that unless our attention is specially called to them, we fail to regard them as such.

# January 23.

Therefore they that were scattered abroad, went every where preaching the word.—Acts viii. 4.

It is time that we should have outgrown that much abused proverb: "When in Rome, do as the Romans." On the contrary, when abroad we ought to be all the more eager in standing up for our principles, and in showing strangers that they are vital to us.

#### January 24.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above.

—Col. iii. 1.

By constantly fixing our thoughts on what is pure and spiritual, our characters will become more and more Christ-like, and our very expressions will out-picture the divine.

# January 25.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.—Phil. iv. 13.

It is far easier to say "I can't" than "I can." Make the necessary effort, and determine, with Christ's strength, to accomplish your tasks, however hard they may be.

#### January 26.

If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.—St. John vii. 37.

To nearly all of us comes a time when we feel ourselves alone in a

vast wilderness, far from God and man. Then an angel comes, and bids us see the well springing up beside us. It has been there all along, only our eyes have been too self-absorbed to notice it.

#### January 27.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to-day, and forever.—Heb. xiii. 8.

Moods, when indulged in, bind us with such strong chains that it is almost impossible to break them. When we begin to feel them getting possession of us, let us at once fix our thoughts on the changeless, and determine to hold our own against the intruders.

# January 28.

He that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while.—St. Matt. xiii. 20, 21.

There are some people who imagine they have deep natures and profound thoughts. It is, however, a case where actions speak louder than words; and judging from the meagre results, their hearts appear to be extremely shallow!

# January 29.

Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.—Acts x. 34, 35.

The strongest bond that can unite people of different beliefs is their common love for God, the Universal Father. If, instead of wrangling about small differences in sectarian doctrines, they would only dwell on this great truth, Christianity would become so strong that no one could resist its sway.

#### January 30.

All things are lawful for me, but

all things are not expedient.—

I. Cor. x. 23.

There are many pleasures which in themselves are not wrong, but on account of their influence on others, it were wiser for us to refrain from indulging in them. By giving them up, we will some day be very glad for having made the sacrifice.

#### January 31.

Go to the ant thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise.—
Prov. vi. 6.

Never give way to laziness, for like all habits, when indulged in, it grows in power. Lazy people compare themselves, in a self-satisfied way, with those who are even lazier still, instead of struggling to attain a higher degree of usefulness and influence by contrasting their actions with those of men who have accomplished great results.

# February 1.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.—St. John xv. 13.

Our love for our friends ought to be so disinterested and so perfect that we would not hesitate to undergo the greatest sacrifice to prove our devotion. Let Christ's example be such an inspiration in our lives, that what might otherwise be hard to bear, His love will make easy.

# February 2.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?—St. Luke vi. 41.

When we see our own faults emphasized in others, we forget too easily that we come under the condemnation which we pronounce so unmercifully against them. Ought not these weaknesses, which we share in common, to a greater or

less degree, make us very tender and compassionate towards our fellowmen?

# February 3.

He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.—St. John xv. 5.

We are surprised when a good enterprise, which we have undertaken, does not succeed. May not the cause of our failure be that we have trusted too much in our own strength, and not sufficiently relied on God's power?

#### February 4.

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him.—St. Luke xxiv. 31.

Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, can alone open our eyes and make us conscious of His presence and His never-failing power to help us in time of need. And yet, in spite of this knowledge,

there are those who still prefer darkness to light, and who will not see the Master standing beside them.

# February 5.

Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.—St. Luke vii. 47.

A person with a deep, intense nature should be judged more leniently than a person with a petty, shallow one. The former may commit what to the world may seem a far graver sin, but in all likelihood his temptation was very great, and his remorse will be correspondingly intense.

# February 6.

I speak . . . to prove the sincerity of your love.—II. Cor. viii. 8.

To every man there comes in his life a period of testing. If he re-

mains faithful and true, his actions will prove the sincerity of his love; if he fails, he not only lowers himself in the esteem of his friends, but loses confidence in his own powers of steadfastness.

#### February 7.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.—II. Cor. ix. 8.

We ask for strength; then when a little comes, we stop asking. If, instead of resting content with this little, we continually prayed for more, we would be able to accomplish far greater results than we ever dreamed of at the start.

# February 8.

Heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.—Rom. viii. 17.

Walk worthy of the vocation

wherewith ye are called.—Eph. iv. 1.

Have you ever stopped to realize the greatness of your heritage? Then claim as your very own the great blessings God has promised you, and show Him in a rich, glorious life your heartfelt gratitude.

#### February 9.

The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handywork.—Psa. xix. 1.

There are inspiration moments in our lives when earth seems so near to heaven that by stretching out our hands we feel as if we could touch the Infinite. A glorious sunset overpowers one with a sense of God's greatness, and lifts one to a higher level.

# February 10.

His word was with power.— St. Luke iv. 32.

Some people may talk till dooms-

day, and yet not make any impression on their hearers. It is not words that carry influence, but the man behind his words. Christ's life was so unselfish and full of loving service, that every word He uttered was with power, and took conviction with it.

# February 11.

We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.—Rom. xii. 5.

If the great sympathetic bond—the common brotherhood of man—were more dwelt upon, people would not take such pains to enlarge on differences in belief, but, instead would join in dwelling on the points in which they agreed.

# February 12.

Thou art careful and troubled about many things.—St. Luke x. 41.

It is all too easy to give an undue significance to small things. Beware of being so absorbed with

trifles that you fail to see your great duties. By cultivating a wellbalanced mind, you will be saved many unnecessary worries and mistakes.

# February 13.

Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over; shall men give unto your bosom.—St. Luke vi. 38.

It is the generous giving out of love which helps us even more than the receiving of it. Do not think because your love is not reciprocated that it is wasted. All true love is of God, and it is never sent forth in vain.

#### February 14.

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.—I. Cor. v. 6.

It is inconceivable what a farreaching influence one strong, forceful character can have on a community. The forces of evil cannot long exist in the presence of perfect purity, but are compelled to seek refuge in the darkness where they belong.

February 15.

There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.—St. Matt. x.26.

Could we only know why we were called upon to suffer certain sorrows and wrongs, it would be far easier to bear them patiently. But may it not be that this very mystery is sent to teach us a more trustful faith?

#### February 16.

Come over into Macedonia, and help us.—Acts xvi. 9.

When you hear God's voice calling to you, lay aside everything that may interfere, and respond at once, not reluctantly, but with a heart full of cheerfulness. Thank God for allowing you to be of use in His vineyard.

#### February 17.

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.—Acts xvii. 27.

We think of God as far off in the heavens, whereas in reality He is all around us waiting for us to recognize His abiding presence. It is only our spiritual blindness which needs to be removed. Do not let us rest content until the scales have fallen from our eyes.

#### February 18.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.— St. John viii. 32.

Truth is unchangeable, but there are many different ways of reaching it. Because you have gained one aspect of it, do not depreciate your brother's. Concentrate your strength in living out the truth you

already know, and thus you will prepare yourself for receiving new truths.

# February 19.

They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.—Psa. lxxxiv. 7.

Just as the muscles of our arms grow stronger with being exercised, so does our moral strength increase when we put it into constant practice. In youth we are meant to train for the battles that await us; our success will largely depend on the force we now acquire.

#### February 20.

In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.—Psa. xcv. 4.

There is something so solemn about the immensity of the sea and the everlastingness of the hills that even the unbeliever insensibly has to acknowledge that a great Power rules the universe, and bows down before Him in reverence.

# February 21.

Eyes have they, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not.

—Psa. cxxxv. 16, 17.

Some people go through life blind and deaf to all that is beautiful around them. They are far worse than idols: these have a good reason for not seeing or hearing, whereas men have only their own stupidity and mental nearsightedness to blame.

# February 22.

Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope.—Zech. ix. 12.

Gazing steadfastly at something that is strong and firm, gives a disheartened man new courage and vigor to press forward to the goal. Hope is the most unfailing anchor of the soul, and whoever makes it his own has gained half the battle of life.

# February 23.

So will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing; fear not but let your hands be strong.—Zech. viii. 13.

Our greatest desire should be to make our lives a blessing to our friends. The question then is: "If I am to give strength to others, how shall I first gain it for myself?" Keep very close to God, and believe in your divine self, in your Godgiven nature. Then you will unconsciously shed an uplifting influence around you.

## February 24.

There is no peace saith my God, to the wicked.—Isa lvii. 21.

A man starts out with the intention of being good. Temptation comes; he yields. Conscience at first pricks; but he soon silences it by plunging into deeper sin. Unhappiness then turns into bitterness and indifference. Dear triends, instead of turning a cold shoulder on

such a one, extend to him a helping hand, because there may yet be time to save him.

## February 25.

I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.—Psa. lxxi. 16.

Armed with God's strength all things are possible to us. When filled with a great joy, we long to tell of our happiness to those around us. This not only helps others, but it also strengthens us in our faith, and increases our desire to spread the good news.

# February 26.

Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth.—I. Sam. iii. 9.

In this busy world we are so taken up with our many occupations that we fail to hear the still, small voice. We live so far away from God that it is no wonder we are apt to misname our own desires God's wishes.

# February 27.

If God be for us, who can be against us?—Rom. viii. 31.

A great invisible power is far stronger than a visible earthly one. Knowing that "God and one always make a majority," let us take fresh courage and trust the Captain of our salvation to help us fight our battles, and to arm us with divine strength for overcoming the enemy.

# February 28.

Tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope.—Rom. v. 3, 4.

Nothing comes by chance. A natural law pervades the spiritual world, just as a spiritual law pervades the natural world. If you wish to gain hope, then you must be willing to learn the lessons taught by sorrow, patience, and ex-

perience, no matter how many heartaches these may give you.

# February 29.

His banner over me was love.— Song of Sol. ii. 4.

Two men set out in life. One decided to rule by fear; the other by love. The former's servant at first reluctantly obeyed, then he rebelled, and finally ran away. The servant of the latter could not do enough for his beloved master. The truth of a principle is known by its results.

### March 1.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow . . . Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.—St. Matt. vi. 34.

When we anticipate the future, we are apt to forget the added strength that will be given us in the meantime. There is much homely wisdom in the old proverb, "Don't cross the bridge before you come to it," and it were well if we followed the advice.

### March 2.

Take . . . the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.— Eph. vi. 17.

Try to get in the habit of reading a chapter in the Bible each day. You have no idea what a strength and help it will be to you. In this world, so full of temptation and sorrow, we have great need of listening to God's voice speaking words of courage and comfort to us.

#### March 3.

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.—St. Matt. xxvi. 35.

When the day is calm and undisturbed, it is very easy to make promises, but when the storm breaks we often look in vain for their fulfilment. Let a man first take into consideration what a promise may involve, then he will

be more ready to cope with its difficulties.

### March 4.

Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.—St. Luke v. 5.

Our characters gain strength through toiling and struggling. Go bravely forward and in God's good time your efforts will be crowned with success, even though it may be built on a foundation of apparent failure.

### March 5.

Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.

—I. Peter iii. 8.

When we have a special dislike for certain persons we find it hard at times even to show them courtesy. Yet this is an effort it is our duty to make. Perhaps if we took the nature of their surroundings more into consideration, we would find it less difficult to be charitable to their failings.

#### March 6.

Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel.—Gen. xlix. 4.

Every man has a perfect right to change his opinions, but let him not do so without good reason. If he always takes color from the last new-comer, he will get such a reputation for fickleness that his friends will no longer have any confidence in his judgment and will lose all regard for his character.

### March 7.

We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.—Acts xiv. 22.

When we are happy let us pray for strength to help us live through the hard times which must inevitably come to each of us, sooner or later. Some day we will be very thankful for this reserve force to fall back upon.

### March 8.

His mother kept all these sayings in her heart.—St. Luke ii. 51.

If instead of puzzling over the solution of unexplainable questions, you would quietly leave them at rest in your heart and trust God in His own good time to send the answers, you would save yourself much anxiety, and have more strength to take up each day's common duties.

### March 9.

They shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.—Zech. xiii. 9.

The great personal love of God for His people is what binds us to Him more closely than anything else. It is such a joy to feel that He is right there, and that it is not necessary to travel a long distance to find Him.

#### March 10.

And God hath set some [to be] helps.—I. Cor. xii. 28.

We cannot all be geniuses and make a great stir in the world, but we can, you in your little corner and I in mine, be helps to every one who comes across our path. A little word of encouragement, a strong hand grasp, or a cheerful look, often do more good than many a long sermon.

### March 11.

I the Lord . . . will hold thine hand, and will keep thee.—Isa. xlii. 6.

No matter how many times you may backslide, take hold again of God's hand and let Him lift you up on your feet once more. Profit by each experience, no matter how

bitter it may be, and let your own failings make you very charitable towards the weaknesses of others.

#### March 12.

The law of truth was in his mouth.—Mal. ii. 6.

If a man once establishes a reputation for absolute truthfulness, no one will ever think of doubting him. Every word he says will carry conviction with it, because he who believes in himself is sure to make others believe in him.

#### March 13.

The perfect law of liberty.—
Jas. i. 25.

We are apt to think of law as something binding and irksome, which, if possible, we would gladly throw off. He who has experienced the blessedness of being under the perfect law of liberty will have no such desire. When a man becomes a law to himself he no longer has to think of the law.

#### March 14.

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no tale-bearer, the strife ceaseth.—Prov. xxvi. 20.

Some people seem to take an abnormal delight in adding fuel to flame. They take advantage of every occasion to spread disagreeable bits of gossip about their neighbors. Such tale-bearers should be safely quarantined, and a red flag hung out of their window to denote danger!

### March 15.

I will open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.—Mal. iii. 10.

Joy is our birthright. If we realized this, we would take greater pains to claim it, and not content ourselves with a lukewarm enjoyment. Don't be afraid to show

your happiness. By giving it expression you may bring it into other lives.

#### March 16.

He loved him as he loved his own soul.—I. Sam. xx. 17.

I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.—II. Sam. i. 26.

A perfect friendship involves a perfect love—a love which always thinks first of the loved one, which can remain unshaken through the hardest tests, and which strengthens its hold every day. It is ever an inspiration even to read about such a friendship, and a far greater one to experience it.

### March 17.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not

overflow thee . . . for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.—Isa. xliii. 2, 3.

If we really believe that God made the world, and that He reveals Himself to us in the wonders of nature, we would have no more fear. We would feel His presence in the thunder, see His glory in the lightning, and after the storm hear the still small voice.

### March 18.

And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels.—Mal. iii. 17.

Some jewels become so dusty and lustreless that they require a thorough cleansing before they can shine again. Let us not murmur, then, when sorrows and hardships come, because these are meant to make us more meet for the Master's use.

### March 19.

They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work.—Ezra ii. 69.

There are many half-hearted men and women who are only too ready to shift their own responsibilities on the shoulders of others. God has assigned to each one of you your special work, and He expects you to do it to the best of your ability. Earnestly seek to fulfil your trust!

#### March 20.

Peace.—Psa. iv. 8; xxxiv. 14. Isa. xlviii. 18. St. Mark ix. 50. St. Luke i. 79. Rom. x. 15. St. John xiv. 27. Eph. ii. 14, 17. Phil. iv. 7. James iii. 18. II. Peter iii. 14.

So many glorious blessings have been promised to those who possess this peace that no man should rest content until he has made it his own. Do not get discouraged if it does not come at once. The long weary waiting will make you treasure it all the more when it is at last yours.

#### March 21.

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!—Isa, v. 20.

Through lack of control some minds get so distorted that it seems impossible for them to call things by their proper names. If such is your case, make a bold stand now and put a strong curb on your thoughts.

#### March 22.

Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!—Job xxiii. 3.

One of the greatest proofs of our divinity is this craving for God which, at some time, must come to every human soul. There are

people who try to quench it, but in the end they have to acknowledge that there is no rest apart from Him.

### March 23.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.— Jas. i. 27.

The most lasting good is always done unconsciously. Be so loving and sympathetic that your mere presence will bring hope and comfort. The minute sympathy is forced people resent it.

## March 24.

At evening time it shall be light.

—Zech. xiv. 7.

During the day, when the thick clouds have shut out the sun, think of the sweet light that has been promised at evening time. Then you will gain fresh courage to bear

your cross, and a flood of hopefulness will fill your heart with rejoicing.

### March 25.

Who maketh his angels spirits, his ministers a flaming fire.—Psa. civ. 4.

Good done unostentatiously is far more reaching in its effects than when blown with a trumpet. Spirits are invisible, and yet we do not begin to realize the immense influence of their quiet, unseen work. The memory of loved ones who have gone from us is a constant inspiration in our lives.

#### March 26.

Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.—Dan. v. 27.

When a man at last awakens to the fact that he is wanting, instead of folding his hands and lazily saying, "O! I'm too old to change," he ought to go right ahead and show his moral backbone by trying with all his might to make up for the deficiency.

### March 27.

The shadow of a great rock in a weary land.—Isa. xxxii. 2.

After weary days of wandering through the trackless desert, how welcome to us is the shade of a great rock or tree! God often has a refuge prepared for us when we least expect to find one. He knows the whole extent of our sufferings, and has promised never to give us more than we are able to bear.

### March 28.

"A little child shall lead them." God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.—I. Cor. i. 27.

The straightforward simplicity of children often helps them to see a truth which our complex reasoning hides from us. We would do well to take example from them and

not worry ourselves so needlessly over unnecessary and minor details which only serve to obstruct the light from the greater truths.

### March 29.

I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.—Jer. xvii. 10.

Would it not be a wise plan if every man were to organize a definite sweeping day? Then he could brush away the cobwebs which, during the week, have clustered about his character, and set the furniture straight in his memory.

### March 30.

Let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant.—II. Sam. ii. 7.

Sometimes we are liable to overestimate our strength and fail to take in a new supply. To be sound and of real worth (valiant) we need constant replenishing. Thank God there is always an unfailing store of strength we can draw from, and He gives this for the asking.

#### March 31.

Let no... man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.—Rom. xiv. 13.

There are some people who have an evil faculty of continually saying or doing some little mean thing which attacks another in just his weakest point. He who causes his brother to sin will be held just as responsible, if not more so, than the one who sins.

# April 1.

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin.—St. Matt. vi. 28.

Many people, by analyzing themselves too much, analyze away their powers of growth, and suddenly come to an introspective standstill. They would do well to look for a moment outward, and profit by the lessons Nature is constantly teaching. It is not by introspection, but by circumspection (in its literal sense of looking around), that man can ever expect to grow.

### April 2.

And he saw that rest was good.
—Gen. xlix. 15.

When one is constantly living in an atmosphere of rush, unless a man is proof against it, he is likely to lose his equilibrium, and join in with the revolving whirlpool. And when once in, it is almost impossible to get out. If a man wishes to keep his balance, it is absolutely necessary for him to guard against extremes, in work as well as in play.

## April 3.

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine

anger is turned away from him.—Hosea xiv. 4.

Most people, alas! find it easier to slide backward than forward. If you do fall, instead of dwelling on your failure, use it as a stepping-stone to something higher. With God's love to back you, you should have no fear, but press on with renewed courage and determination to win the victory.

# April 4.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.—Psa. xxv. 14.

A friend will never tell you his heart's secret unless he feels assured of your understanding love and sympathy. We must get very near to God if we would have Him reveal to us the secrets of His nature, and the life work He would have us undertake and accomplish.

## April 5.

Neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.—
I. Cor. iii. 7.

Some men are so taken up with the fine results of their labors, and the marvelous wisdom they have displayed, that God remains but an unknown factor. In reality we are so dependent on Him, that nothing ever comes to us which He, in His love, has not sent.

## April 6.

For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive?—
I. Cor. iv. 7.

True genius should never brag; in its greatness it ought to get beyond the realm of selfish comparison. It is only small minds that harp on their own individual talents, and talk disparagingly of their neighbors' virtues.

## April 7.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age.—Psa. xcii. 14.

It must ever be an inspiration to come in contact with one who has lived through life's many and varied experiences, and who still retains a strong faith, unshaken by disappointment and bereavement. It seems as if to such souls had been granted a prophetic insight into the great Beyond, and that this glimpse had helped to harmonize the perplexing problems of the world.

# April 8.

[He] is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.—Eph. iii. 20.

We, with our human limitations, are too apt to put a limit to God's infinite greatness. We keep questioning His power, instead of taking Him at His word, and trusting Him to do that which is for our highest welfare.

## April 9.

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.—St. Matt. ix. 37.

If you only could begin to realize what a tremendous field lies before you, you would not hesitate one moment to take up your life's work. Even if your success is not at once apparent, you will have put forth a force which in God's time will be the means of accomplishing great good.

## April 10.

As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.—St. John i. 12.

How many of us use this power, and try to live up to our divine calling? Let us, as sons of God, claim the blessings of our heritage, and go forth in the strength of Jesus Christ, our great Elder Brother, to fight in the battle for

Right and Purity, always keeping our armor free from stain.

## April 11.

I AM hath sent me unto you.— Ex. iii. 14.

God has endowed each of us with a mission, therefore we are all missionaries, no matter what our different callings may be. Let us see to it that none of us remain idle, and thus obscure our mental vision. The great I AM has sent us, and we are responsible to Him for the use we make of our talents.

# April 12.

Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.—St. Luke xiv. 11.

To be truly great is to do hard things without giving people the impression of their being hard. The man who is continually bragging about the difficulty of his tasks and all he accomplishes, becomes so wearisome that he loses all influence, and makes you want to take especial pains to avoid his society.

# April 13.

If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.—
I. John ii. 15.

Ye cannot serve God and mammon.—St. Luke xvi. 13.

Many have tried to combine the two, but their efforts have invariably resulted in failure. We should have for our object not to be the weak slaves of the world, but to serve it by bringing it nearer to God. This we alone can do by leading heavenly lives, thus showing to others that serving God makes one far happier than serving the world.

### April 14.

Put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.—Ex. iii. 5,

Some men grow so used to what is beautiful that they no longer give it any thought. For instance, a peasant living in a wild, beautiful spot of nature is never thrilled by a glorious sunset. His eyes have not been opened to see the divine wonders of God's great world; he continues to move in a narrow circle of his own making.

### April 15.

He endured, as seeing him who is invisible.—Heb. xi. 27.

Nothing is so helpful to the one who is struggling in the mires of doubt and despair as the consciousness of a friend's love. Christ is the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother, and who is ever holding out a lifting hand to the downcast and fallen. Take hold of His

strength, and you will be able to overcome any obstacle.

# April 16.

My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from him.—Psa. lxii. 5.

We imagine sometimes that we are trusting God absolutely; yet if we were to analyze our feelings, we would be surprised to find how far this is from being the case. It is hard for us to place ourselves entirely in God's hands, and let Him work out His will in us. This confiding faith comes only through much prayer.

## April 17.

Every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.—I. Cor. vii. 7.

We cannot all expect to have the same talents, but God does demand of us that we should each make the uttermost of the gift He has en-

trusted to us. So, instead of wasting your time bewailing your short-comings, improve it by acquiring new virtues, and adding strength to old ones.

# April 18.

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.—St. Luke xviii. 1.

When a long time passes, and still our prayers remain unanswered, we grow faint-hearted, and begin to question whether, after all, God does love us. Perhaps, dear friend, God is even now sending an answer in a manner wholly unexpected to you. Live steadily up to your light, and be willing to wait patiently for your desired blessing, believing all the while that it will come.

# April 19.

Use this world, as not abusing it.—I. Cor. vii. 31.

Between the use and abuse of a thing the boundary line is sometimes so vague, that almost unconsciously we overstep its limits. Then we find it all too easy to go ahead, and all too hard to turn back. Yet, if we would have others walk straight, we must take especial pains to walk straight ourselves.

## April 20.

When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee.—St. Luke xiv. 13, 14.

The man who always expects to have his hospitality returned has not yet learned the true meaning of hospitality. The joy of being able to extend a kindness to a friend or stranger should be sufficient compensation for any trouble to which he may have been put.

# April 21,

Looking steadfastly on him [they] saw his face as it had

been the face of an angel.—Acts vi. 15.

There is a vast difference between a handsome face and a lovely face. The former denotes regularity of feature and a certain charm of contour, whereas the other expresses love portrayed in visible form. Feature beauty pleases for the moment; soul beauty lasts forever.

# April 22.

My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.—Eph. vi. 10.

Contact with strong, forceful men and women must always be an inspiration. They call forth what is purest and best in us; with them we are incapable of showing any petty meannesses. Their nobleness demands nobleness from us in return.

## April 23.

Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.—St. Luke viii. 48.

How lovingly must the Master's voice have sounded in the poor, sick woman's ears! Her faith had, indeed, been rewarded, even beyond her expectations. She doubtless returned to her home with a strong determination to prove by her deeds how real her thankfulness was.

# April 24.

Go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.—Ex. iv. 12.

When the time comes for us to speak out bravely, we are so afraid that we will not say exactly the right thing that we keep silence, and let the golden opportunity pass by. If God gives you a message to repeat, believe that He will make

you His mouthpiece, and that you will be eloquent in spite of your halting speech.

# April 25.

Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.—Psa. iv. 4.

If we set apart a certain time each day for quiet meditation, we would gain many new thoughts, and acquire fresh strength to meet the various duties which go to make up our daily life. It is a mistake to let action crowd out repose. The rounded man is he who has learned how to harmonize the two.

# April 26.

The disciple whom Jesus loved . . . leaned on his breast.—St. John xxi. 20.

If you long to fathom the depth of Christ's love, you must get very near His heart, and let His words vibrate through your very being. In Dagnan-Bouveret's painting of the Last Supper, the features of the beloved disciple reflect those of his divine Master, thus showing the effect of close personal contact and communion.

## April 27.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight.—Psa. xix. 14.

If a man has control of his thoughts, and is able to concentrate them on what is noble and uplifting, his actions are sure to be correspondingly good. When there is a missing link between the tongue and the brain (and alas! how many people have these missing links), disastrous results inevitably follow.

## April 28.

In your patience possess ye your souls.—St. Luke xxi. 19.

In times of sore anxiety, when we do not know which turn the

crisis will take, it takes a great deal of character to patiently await results. Keep firmly expecting the best, while at the same time steel yourself against disappointment. God is preparing the future for you, as well as you for the future.

## April 29.

He that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.—I. Cor. ix. 10.

Hope is the most strengthening food that the soul can feed upon. The moment a man loses it, he begins to sink, and the outlook grows blacker and blacker. Hope is progressive and invigorating; hopelessness is retrogressive and weakening.

# April 30.

They which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.—I. Cor. ix. 14.

It is only natural that more should be expected of a person who preaches, than of one who quietly fulfills his daily duties. Let him rise to his responsibility, and strive most earnestly to make his actions accord with his words, thus becoming, in very truth, a living epistle of Christ.

### May 1.

Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee.—I. Chron. xvii. 2.

When we at first start on a difficult task, we are apt to be so overcome by the sense of our weakness, that we hesitate whether or not it is best to proceed. It is then that we should look away from self to God, and let our hearts be so permeated with His strength that we will no longer have time to think of our own shortcomings.

### May 2.

And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only.—Matt. xxi. 19.

A life that was made to bear beautiful fruit, and, instead, only produces leaves, is one of the saddest failures in the world. Jesus Christ always had pity on the wayward and weak, but the fruitless lives which were content merely to exist, fell under His strong condemnation, and even their leaves were taken away from them.

# May 3.

I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.—I. Cor. xiv. 19.

Some men, in their blind foolishness, imagine that by using high-flown, unintelligible words they can make the profoundest impression on their audience. It is rather the simple, direct language of truth that has the greatest power to convince, and he who employs it is the really wise man.

### May 4.

That God may be all in all.—

I. Cor. xv. 28.

Holiness consists in being emptied of self and filled with God. Every earnest man longs to reflect more and more clearly the divine image, and to so let his spiritual nature control his lower, that he will only have high and holy thoughts, and do pure and Christlike actions.

# May 5.

Enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.—Isa. xxvi. 20.

If something has gone wrong, and you feel indignation getting the better of you, go straight to your room, and do not leave it until you feel sure that you have regained the mastery of yourself.

By giving way to anger one loses one's self-respect, besides doing a great deal of mischief.

# May 6.

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.—St. John vii. 17.

Instead of fruitlessly puzzling over some abstract question which you are unable to solve, live out conscientiously the truth that you already know, and thus you will prepare yourself for the acquisition of further knowledge. Living opens the way for seeing.

# May 7.

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory.—I. Cor. xv. 41.

Every one can't expect to shine with the same brilliancy, but every

one should be willing to give out all the light that is in him, and not cover it with a shade just because somebody else happens to be more luminous. The world needs all the light it can get, in order to dispel the darkness.

# May 8.

[Love] is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.—I. Cor. xiii. 5.

It is often little indescribable things which most easily provoke us; then we hate ourselves for giving way to such uncharitable feelings. If we had our thoughts under better control, we could prevent their reaching this explosive climax, and instead, direct them into the channel of that love which thinketh no evil.

# May 9.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.—Prov. vi. 23.

To sensitive natures hardly any-

thing hurts more than a reproof, especially when given by one we love. Yet if we took into consideration the spirit in which it was given, it would be less hard to bear, and we would more readily profit by our mistakes and failures.

# May 10.

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.—Rev. iii. 15.

The slough of indifference is one of the worst pits in which a man can fall. When he once gets in, he seems hardly to be aware of the fact, and apparently shows no desire to extricate himself. When you feel yourself approaching the dangerous edge, turn around before it is too late, and run in the opposite direction.

### May 11.

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.—St. John xviii. 37.

Truth is the corner-stone of all character. However baffled it at times may be, in the end it is sure to gain the victory, and carry with it the relentless force of conviction. Could a man enjoy a higher privilege than being a living witness to this truth?

May 12.

And Peter followed him afar off.
—St. Mark xiv. 54.

If you happen to have a friend whom the world may call unpopular, don't, for that reason, avoid mentioning his name, but always be ready to stand up for him, and prove by your actions that you value his friendship, and that you mean to be true to him at whatever cost.

# May 13.

Ecce Homo—Behold the man!—St. John xix. 5.

By constantly gazing on the Son

of man and holding communion with Him, you will by degrees come to reflect His image. Your Christ-likeness may then be the means of inducing others to follow your example. There is no greater inspiration than the ideal of a perfect life.

# May 14.

These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.

—Acts xvii. 6.

It does nearly every one good once in a while to be turned inside out, and to get a good dusting! A man is all the better in the end for having some of his illusions done away with; then he is compelled to think for himself, and it is this individual thinking that makes character.

### May 15.

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.—Psa. xcvii. 11.

Good people are apt to question

why they have to suffer so much. It is often because they cherish false ideas, and these can only be dispelled by pain. Then when they see truth shine forth in all its clearness, their gladness will be correspondingly great, because built on a broad and sure foundation.

### May 16.

For this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power.

—Ex. ix. 16.

Every person creates an atmosphere about him. It is either positive, negative or indifferent, corresponding to the indwelling spirit. God made man to be a channel of His power. Could any duty be more beautiful than manifesting to others the love of God?

### May 17.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.—Rev. ii. 4.

True love is eternal, and its influence in a man's life is undying. Because you have a new friend that is no reason why you should forsake an old one. Love ought to know no boundaries, but be allinclusive in its range, for God is love.

# May 18.

I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.—St. Matt. v. 44.

We accept this in theory, but when the time comes for putting it into practice, we are often found wanting. If a man has done you a real tangible wrong, instead of harboring feelings of hatred against him, seek at once to control them, and pray God to teach you the spirit of true forgiveness.

### May 19.

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.—Psa. cxxx. 1, 6.

The dear heavenly Father will not leave us alone in our need. He sometimes answers our prayer for light by sending unforeseen ministering angels to help us out of the depths, and show us hidden ways across the threshold of pain and sorrow.

# May 20.

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?—I. Cor. xiv. 8.

If you are entrusted with an important message to deliver, do not leave out the disagreeable part just for fear of displeasing your friend. Tell him the whole truth, and trust him so to understand the effort this costs you, that he will

profit by the advice, and in the end thank you for your straightforward sincerity.

### May 21.

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.—St. John x. 16.

Different sects and religions set up folds of their own; each one thinks his is the best, and looks down with disdain on the sheep in the other folds. Why not pull down all these walls of partition, and acknowledge the one Great Shepherd as master over the whole flock?

# May 22.

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.—I. Chron. xvi. 11.

We feel at times as if God's face were hidden from us, and that He is far, far away and unable to help us in our need. It is rather our own blindness which prevents our seeing Him, and what we should pray for is not that God may come back to us, but that the scales may fall from our eyes.

# May 23.

For all the Athenians, and strangers which were there, spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing.—
Acts xvii. 21.

There are some inquisitive and sieve-like people who are always on the lookout for bits of news. No sooner do they get wind of any, than they begin at once to publish abroad the facts (or illusions), taking good care, all the while, of making a mountain out of a mole hill. Of such beware!

### May 24.

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.—Prov. x. 12.

When a man opens his heart to hatred, with it come a hundred uninvited guests, and after they have once made their appearance, they are in no hurry to leave. Love alone is strong enough to make them go, and her utmost influence must be used before she can crowd them out.

### May 25.

Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the Lord is with thee.—II. Sam. vii. 3.

With the Lord on our side to help us, we need have no fear, but we can march bravely forward, with hearts full of faith in His guiding power. Defeat may be success in disguise, so if events do not take the course you planned for them, be sure that God is leading you by a better way, and that you are absolutely safe in His keeping.

### May 26.

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be, and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.—Eccl. i. 6.

It is given to some men to present old truths in such new and vivid lights, that what seemed once cold and meaningless suddenly becomes real and full of power. It is as if a sculptor had with a touch of magic awakened a piece of marble into life.

# May 27.

As [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he.—Prov. xxiii. 7.

If, instead of trying to reform a man by punishing merely his wrong deeds, we went back into the root of the matter, and tried to change his heart, our work would be far more fruitful and lasting. Pure thoughts must necessarily result in pure actions.

### May 28.

Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.—Gen. xviii. 32.

It is incalculable the amount of influence a handful of strong, earnest people can have on a community. By continually emphasizing the power of right, they will overcome the forces of evil, and end in establishing a government based on righteousness and truth.

# May 29.

Neglect not the gift that is in thee.—I. Tim. iv. 14.

If you do not cultivate your talents, they will disappear through disuse, or else they will become so rusty that it will be next to impossible to do anything with them. Don't let yourself lapse into a state of indifference, but bestir yourself now, this very minute, and let the work of the present somewhat atone for the neglect of the past. You have a mission to fulfil, and you must fulfil it!

### May 30.

For precept must be upon precept: line upon line, . . . here a little, and there a little.—Isa. xxviii. 10.

The lessons of life must be learned by slow stages and often through hard experiences. Sometimes we chafe at the unreasonableness of so much suffering, and begin to question the wisdom of God's guidance. It is then that we should try to feel that God's ways are far better than our ways, and that in the end all this discipline will have purified and strengthened our characters.

### May 31.

Make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.—Heb. ii. 10.

Sorrow is a great educator and refiner. A man may not realize this when he is in the dark waters of an overwhelming grief. But when his feet touch ground once

more, he can look back over the past experience, and trace each step by which God has taught him some needful lesson; with the knowledge of this progress his bitterness disappears.

#### June 1.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!—Rom. xi. 33.

It is impossible for us to fathom the unfathomable love of God. When inexplicable sorrows and worries come to us, let us strive to feel that in some way they are necessary for our development, and that in the great future we will know the reason why.

#### June 2.

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.—I. Sam. xviii. 3.

Perfect friendship never doubts nor questions. Where it cannot understand, it is content to trust on in the silence, convinced all the while that some day, when the mists have cleared away, everything will be made clear in the light of God's love.

#### June 3.

The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.—St. John x. 25.

You could talk until doomsday to some people, and still they would not be convinced. The best way to appeal to them is to quietly go ahead and transform your words into actions. Tangible facts help to remove doubts sooner than anything else in the world.

#### June 4.

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat.—Isa. xxv. 4.

Those who have been through the deep waters, and been conscious of God's supporting hand, come out of them with a new faith, and a determination never again to doubt His all-loving care. Things learned by experience become a part of our very lives, and can never be forgotten.

#### June 5.

Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.—Acts xxiv. 16.

A man with a perfectly clear conscience can endure almost any amount of suffering; but as soon as it becomes in the least tarnished with error, the power of deciding between truth and falseness is lessened, and before long he finds himself hopelessly entangled in the mesh of conflicting ideas.

#### June 6.

For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.—Psa. ix. 18.

It is a mistaken idea that God cares only for the rich, and leaves the poor to take care of themselves. He loves each one of His children, but, in His wisdom, He sees that what would help on the education of one would retard that of another. We should, therefore, be content to trust Him with the shaping of our lives.

#### June 7.

Our sufficiency is of God.—II. Cor. iii. 5.

The great lesson for us to learn is that God always gives us a supply equal to our wants, and that He knows far better than we what will be for our highest good. Spiritually, therefore, we should be passive, whereas bodily we should

generally be active, and put into immediate practice the truths we have silently been taught.

#### June 8.

For the love of Christ constraineth us.—II. Cor. v. 14.

You may argue with a stubborn person from morning till night, and yet not be any nearer convincing him than when you started. The one sure conqueror is Love. No obstinacy can, in the long run, withstand its wonderful power.

#### June 9.

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?—Numbers xxiii. 19.

We often make God in our own image, and because we are so changeable, we imagine (perhaps unwittingly) that He also must be.

It is very hard for the finite to comprehend the Infinite; yet, in spite of our human weaknesses, we should take great care not to criticise God's actions from an earthly standpoint.

#### June 10.

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.—Isa. xxx. 21.

There are times in our lives when we are so upset with conflicting ideas, that it seems impossible to know which way to turn. It is then that we long for the voice saying to us, "This is the way, walk ye in it." If we are deeply in earnest, there is no reason why we should not realize our longing.

#### June 11.

Ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in

you, yea, what clearing of your-selves.—II. Cor. vii. 11.

If housekeepers have regular days for sweeping their rooms, why do not individuals have stated seasons for removing the dust and cobwebs from their spiritual apartments? This oversight is due either to thoughtlessness or willful laziness. See that in the future it does not occur again!

#### June 12.

This people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me. — Isa. xxix. 13.

When the heart has been severed from the lips, a man may pray from morning until night, and yet not be any the better for it. By constantly using beautiful words without a thought as to their meaning, he will find, some day when he really needs them, that through

vain repetition their true value has been destroyed.

#### June 13.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.—II. Cor. v. 17.

The love of Christ is the most transforming power in the whole world. When it once takes possession of a man, it changes him into a new creature. His horizon is broadened to such an extent, that he no longer gives undue importance to trifles, but tries to fill the wider sphere which has opened before him.

#### June 14.

The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.—St. Matt. xxi. 42.

It is a glorious thing to know that we can each supply the stones for the great building of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. It unites us all in one great circle of fellowship, and makes us feel our interdependence, and, above all, our need of Christ.

#### June 15.

I will seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.—Ezekiel xxxiv. 12.

The figure of the Good Shepherd watching over his flock is to be found all through the Bible. And what could more fittingly represent the loving and tender care that God shows for His children, and His unwillingness that any of them should be lost!

#### June 16.

What glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.—I. Peter ii. 20.

A great test of character is to be patient when unjustly accused, and not answer back harshly. Circumstances may be such that, at the time being, you cannot explain and prove your perfect innocence; the knowledge of it, however, should give you strength to hold your own, even in the silence.

### June 17.

The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is, in the sight of God, of great price.—I. Peter iii. 4.

One especially appreciates a quiet, reposeful person, after having been for any length of time with some one full of untiring energy and in a state of constant bustle. It is a great thing to have one's self so under control that, when neces-

sary, one can assume this calm, helpful attitude towards others.

#### June 18.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth.—St. Luke iii. 5.

The difficult task for us is to be willing to wait patiently for that time when things will right themselves. We are too anxious to take matters in our own hands, instead of leaving them to the great Leveler, who alone knows what valleys should be filled, and what mountains should be brought low.

#### June 19.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.—Isa. xl. 3.

It is not given to every man to be a great leader or reformer, but each one can do his share in preparing the way for somebody else. It has been wisely said that it takes all kinds to make a world. Without variety, there would be no real unity. Do, therefore, your part of the work, and trust God for the rest.

### June 20.

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.—Isa. xlii. 16.

To those who are blindly groping in the darkness of a great sorrow, how full of comfort these words must sound! Try, dear friend, to see the light piercing the black clouds, and let that light lead

you upward and onward to the throne of God.

#### June 21.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.—Psa. cxxxiii. I.

Nothing is so oppressive as an atmosphere of discord, where there is continual fault-finding and endless complaining; and nothing is more inspiring than an atmosphere of harmony, where every one tries to see the good in his neighbor, and where all quarrelsome and disagreeable subjects are carefully avoided.

#### June 22.

Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty; they shall behold the land that is very far off.—Isa. xxxiii. 17.

The inner vision of some people is so keen that they are able to see things which are veiled to others.

Their faces reflect, in a measure, the King's beauty, and from their life is emanated a power which is at once inspiring as well as strengthening.

#### June 23.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness.—Prov. xxxi. 26.

There are in this world a few rare souls who seem incapable of even thinking evil of others. They are always ready to give a man accused of wrong-doing the benefit of the doubt, and although they may far from approve of his actions, they will never pass a sentence of condemnation on any living creature.

#### June 24.

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.—Psa. xlvi. 10.

Although the cause of evil may, for a time, seem to prosper, yet all the while good is silently working its way along, and in the end, because of its strength and unremitting perseverance, it must triumph. When you are feeling cast down, try to realize that, in very truth, God is your Father, and that this whole world belongs to Him.

### June 25.

It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. . . . Rise, and stand upon thy feet.—Acts xxvi. 14, 16.

Instead of enlarging on the cruelty of fate and the unfairness of Providence in letting so many hardships and sorrows come into your life, stand up on your feet like a man, and bravely face the future, using your disappointments as helps to the attainment of a higher and more influential life.

#### June 26.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour.—Eccl. iv. 9.

It is impossible for a single person to combine all the qualities necessary for carrying on a great work. If he can join forces with a kindred spirit, whose character supplies his deficiencies, the result of their combined labor will be much more far-reaching than it could otherwise be. Peter and John are good examples of men who possessed complementary virtues.

#### June 27.

Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold: I cannot speak, for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.—Jer. i. 6, 7.

When God entrusts us with a mission, we need not worry over our weakness and shortcomings, because He has promised to give us the needed guidance, and will put into our mouths the words He would have us say. Those only fail who rely on their own strength, and think themselves all-sufficient.

#### June 28.

The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. — I. Cor. iii. 17.

We should be holy and without blame before him in love.—Eph. i. 4.

To present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight.—Col. i. 22.

As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.—
I. Peter i. 15, 16.

We are not miserable worms, like some of our hymns take pains to tell us. No! We are made in God's wonderful image, and we have received, as His children, the heritage of holiness. Let us dwell more on our divine birthright, and live more worthily because of our glorious privileges.

### June 29.

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.—Isa. xxv. 8.

When you feel as if you must succumb to the enemy Despair, remember that Jesus Christ has trodden the hard path of suffering before you, and because He has conquered, He will make you victorious, and empower you with a strength before which all the forces

of evil must retreat. Take courage, dear friend, and believe that your Master will not fail you.

#### June 30.

By love serve one another.—Gal. v. 13.

He who knows himself best, thinks of himself least. The man who constantly analyzes his motives and feelings, ends in distrusting them, and finally finds himself in such a labyrinth that it is impossible to get out. The best way for a man to discover himself, is to put his thoughts into immediate action.

### July 1.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.—Rev. iii. 2.

It is much harder to put new life into a work which has run down, than to start a new work altogether. But for that very reason one should make a special effort, and strive with all one's might to bring success out of apparent failure. Even if the world does not give you credit for the difficult task, be sure you have God's approval.

## July 2.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.—
St. Matt. vii. 12.

Men often obey the letter of the Golden Rule, but by no means its spirit. Just as we would rather have others think well of us, so we should try to eradicate all evil and unjust thoughts about them from our hearts. In this way our actions will be sincere, because they will have a truthful background.

July 3.

These are murmurers, complainers, . . . and their mouth speak-

eth great, swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.—Jude i. 16.

There are some people to whom, unfortunately, it is second nature to find fault with everybody and everything. If they can gain any advantage by it, they will be civil and flattering in your presence, but when your back is turned, they will say all the disagreeable things they can think of.

## July 4.

Little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

—I. John ii. 28.

By placing absolute confidence in the Saviour, and relying on His guidance in every step of our life, we will never be afraid of what the future may have in store, for we have the full assurance of His neverfailing care, and know that He will prepare us for the future.

#### July 5.

He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me?—Isa. l. 8.

The nearness of God's presence alone helps us to bear the hurt which a false accusation brings us. Our first desire often is to answer back sharply, and tell the accuser in plain words what we think of him. But on second thought we judge it wiser to show by our actions that we are innocent, as they are more convincing than any amount of argument.

#### July 6.

The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.—Psa. cxlv. 9.

There are people who seem to think that God is very partial showering benefits on some, and sending disasters to others. No, indeed! God loves us all equally, but He sees that each one of our characters must be developed by a different method; to some, Joy is sent as a teacher; while others can only learn the lesson of life through the great educator, Pain.

## July 7.

Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.—St. John viii. 1, 2.

Jesus never undertook to teach the people without first preparing Himself by spending the night in silent prayer. This is the secret of His wonderful, unfailing power. He was able to put Himself so in touch with His hearers, that He knew at once what things they most needed, and always ministered to their wants.

## July 8.

And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee. . . . Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.—Gen. xiii. 8, 9.

When we propose making a sacrifice, our voices are so apt to betray the bent of our inclinations, that the offer is generally refused, the other person not being willing to accept a gift which has apparently caused us such an effort to relinquish.

#### July 9.

If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone.

—St. Matt. xviii. 15.

An immense amount of harm is sometimes done by reproving a friend in the presence of others. A person is much more likely to profit by your advice if you give it confidentially, and in a spirit of loving interest, than if you just pick him to pieces in a fault-finding way, regardless of the place and the manner of your rebuke.

# July 10.

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.—I. Peter ii. 15.

A living, tangible action is the only sure proof that will convince an ignorant man of his folly. Preaching to him is absolutely useless, unless accompanied with solid practice, because his untrained mind cannot grasp a truth until he sees it realized before him.

## July 11.

And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.—Ezekiel ii. 1.

There are in the world some lazy people who profess to be Christians, but when the time comes for action, they invariably procrastinate, and make some lame kind of excuse. He who would hear God's voice, and carry out His wishes, must stand upon his feet and show himself to be a willing messenger.

## July 12.

Take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life.— Deut. iv. 9.

Just as we are liable to forget the lessons learned in our childhood, so, when a great sorrow comes, we fail to remember the many blessings God has previously showered upon us, and for the time being allow ourselves merely to dwell on the darkness of our despair.

## July 13.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.—Heb. iii. 14.

There are ups and downs in the spiritual life as well as in the business life, but there is a vast difference between the soul's king and the world's king. Christ is so loving a Master, that He never leaves us bankrupt for long, but sends us, in some unexpected way, a new store of riches, to enable us to start again with fresh courage.

## July 14.

The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.—II. Cor. iii. 6.

It is the spirit of a message that we should be most eager to discover. The words in which it is clothed are but of secondary importance, and should be thus viewed. In studying the Bible, be careful to read the different passages with their contexts. These sometimes modify a verse to such an extent that the truth is seen in an entirely new aspect.

## July 15.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. iv. 6.

The battle is no longer to the one who is strongest physically, but to him who has the greatest spiritual strength. People are beginning to realize more and more the supreme importance of spirit, and that the body is but its outward expression, and derives from it all its force and beauty.

#### July 16.

Arise, shine; for thy light is

come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.—Isa. lx. 1.

We are given light in order that we may show it forth. If we continue letting it strike inwards, it will either burn us up, or else go out because it has not enough draught. Then, too, it is selfish to keep all our happiness to ourselves; we should long to make others sun themselves in its glow.

## July 17.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.— Ez. xxxvi. 26.

After trying in vain to melt a man's heart, we finally give up in despair, and feel it is of no use. God alone can work that miracle, and He does it with the irresistible force of His mighty love, which

alone can sweep all barriers before it.

## July 18.

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.—Isa. xliii. 18.

The well-balanced person is one who knows how to discern between the things to be forgotten and the things to be remembered. It is quite as harmful to cherish the memory of a wrong, as to forget an act of kindness. To efface the thought of evil from our minds, requires often great determination, and can only be done by a truly noble soul.

## July 19.

Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.—Acts xxiv. 25.

That "procrastination is the thief of time" we must all admit. Yet, in spite of this knowledge, we continue putting things off from day to day, until suddenly we see the fearful words, "Too late," staring at us from the tomb of our lost opportunity.

## July 20.

The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.—Psa. xlv. 13.

All those who have acknowledged Christ as their Master, and are striving to follow out His wishes, are sons and daughters of the King. With the banner of love floating over them, they should always seek to be considerate of each other, and hold out a helping hand to those in distress. By so doing, they will be better prepared for entering the King's palace.

## July 21.

The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.—Prov. xv. 19.

The man who has indifferent ideas of truthfulness and honesty finds it a thousand times harder to settle a difficult question when it arises, than the man whose habit it is to do everything in a straightforward and conscientious way. Crises are sure to determine the extent of a man's character.

## July 22.

Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance.

—II. Peter i. 13.

There are some well-meaning people who just fail to put their intentions into practice because no one is there to spur them on. As long as they have constant digs and pushes (which are, alas! rather wearisome for the diggers and pushers), they go all right, but without these, they are content to plod along in a rut, doing nothing.

## July 23.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.—St. John i. 5.

If Jesus Christ had gone on the principle, "only give light when you are sure it will be appreciated," we would never have the record of His many acts of mercy and His many words of love. No, He felt that if His hearers were not able to understand Him then, later on the scales would fall from their eyes. In the meantime it was His mission to prepare the way for that coming light.

## July 24.

Thou hast made [man] a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.—Psa. viii., 5, 6.

If we dwell at all on our divine heritage, we must in time realize, to a certain extent, the greatness of the power which God has conferred on us. And realizing it, our lives ought to be inspired to wider usefulness, and a more complete consecration.

## July 25.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.—Job xix. 25.

The assurance of the living nearness of the divine presence is what alone brings comfort when all else seems to fail. It is in sorrow that Christ's infinite tenderness and sympathy appeal to us most strongly. Then we love to think of His humanity, and feel that He understands all the extent of our suffering.

July 26.

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.—Psa. ix. 9.

The dear Heavenly Father knows so well the needs of His children, that before we even ask Him, He is already sending us a supply. Count over the number of comfort verses in the Bible, and you will be astonished to find how many there are, and how wonderfully they minister to every want.

## July 27.

Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.—Isa. li. 11.

A person's expression is the reflection of his soul's growth. If happiness is not inborn, one should seek to develop it, because it is one of the most useful elements in life, and often produces far-reaching results. Nothing is more contagious than an atmosphere of joy.

## July 28.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—Prov. xvi. 32.

A man who, instead of governing his temper, is governed by it, ends by setting his whole nature so out of tune that it is no longer possible for him to do anything great and influential. He comes to think that the world is made for his convenience, and that he is lord of all that he surveys.

# July 29.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.—Psa. cxlv. 18.

Sometimes, because our prayers are not answered right away, we think they have not been heard. Why, dear friend, God knows what we want even before we ask Him, and be sure that if your request has not yet been granted,

there is some good reason for His withholding it, and that even now your prayer is being answered in some way you least expect.

# July 30.

They bind heavy burdens, and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.—St. Matt. xxiii. 4.

It is all very easy for a theoretical person to plan out another's work for him, then criticise him if he does not do it properly. If he himself is not a man of action, his words will go for nothing, and all his high-sounding, good advice will have been utterly void of lasting results.

#### July 31.

If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter

into life maimed, than, having two hands, to go into hell.—St. Mark ix. 43.

There are some habits, such as drinking, which can only be cured by a man's giving it up entirely. In such cases moderation seems impossible, and almost always results in a relapse. It is well worth while to cut off the unruly member, and the man who makes the sacrifice will never live to regret it.

## August 1.

Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until sevent times: but, Until seventy times seven.—St. Matt. xviii. 21, 22.

People forgive as long as it requires no effort on their part. As soon, however, as their affection or pride is hurt then it becomes a

different matter, and their impulse is to shut out the offender from their hearts and let him work out his sin by himself. Forgiveness far oftener leads to repentance than coldness and scorn.

## August 2.

Which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?—St. Luke xiv. 28.

There are some impulsive natures who, the minute they get hold of a new idea, rush right ahead without at first weighing its worth. The result is, they either find that their rashness has done a great deal of harm, or else they suddenly come to a standstill; in both which cases they are doomed to disappointment.

## August 3.

What be these two olive branches, which through the two golden

pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.—Zech. iv. 12, 14.

Throughout the Bible oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Just as we require fresh supplies every day, let us in turn be channels through which strength and comfort can flow out to our friends. Let us not be chary in giving out of ourselves. The more we dispense, the better ready are we to receive a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

#### August 4.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer . . . . be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. ii. 10.

The reward of faithful service will not only come in the hereafter, but you will experience it here in a widened sympathy and in a greater power of understanding the joys and sorrows of others. The spiritual joy of feeling that you can be of use to others is far greater than any material benefit you might receive.

#### August 5.

Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.—St. John viii. 15.

There is a difference between forming an opinion of a man and passing sentence upon him. In order to know what people we should associate with, we must learn to distinguish between good instincts and bad ones. It is right for us to condemn the offence, but then we should have pity for the offender. In so doing, we will be following in the footsteps of Jesus.

#### August 6.

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should

know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.—Isa. l. 4.

It is a rare gift to be able to put yourself so in harmony with the person you are with, that you will instinctively know just the right word to say and how to say it. In order to have this power you must cultivate a calm restfulness, which is the best preparation for a sympathetic intercourse.

## August 7.

The darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.—I. John ii. 8.

The sunlight is all the more luminous when seen against a dark

background of clouds.

Nearly everything in life gains new beauty and power through contrast with something less beautiful. Therefore, we should not murmur at shadows, but seek to make the coming light the more brilliant just because of them.

#### August 8.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God. . . and I will write upon him my new name.—Rev. iii. 12.

The pillars of a church or society are the men and women who do all the work, and to whom every one comes in every emergency. As a rule they are terribly imposed upon, and often end in becoming physical wrecks. There is such a thing as religious dissipation, and all enthusiasts should be on their guard against falling into it.

#### August 9.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace.—Isa. lii. 7.

If you know that the telling of some experience or the unfolding of some truth will make another heart glad, don't keep back the good news through reticence or from a fear that others will not understand you. The main thing is to do your duty; God will take care of the rest.

## August 10.

The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.—St. Matt. xxv. 4.

A reserve supply of character is absolutely essential to one who would be prepared to meet an emergency. Testing times are apt to come so unexpectedly and in such different ways from which we anticipated, that unless a man has been armed beforehand for the conflict, he will more than likely fail.

#### August 11.

My times are in thy hand.—Psa. xxxi. 15.

When a man takes his life into his own hands and grows reckless and daring, regardless of laws and principles, sooner or later he is sure to reap a bitter harvest. On the other hand, a man who lets himself be governed by a higher Power feels himself secure, no matter how dark and unpromising present circumstances may appear.

## August 12.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.—Gal. v. 17.

The worst conflicts a man goes through are with himself. Material interests keep cropping up in most unexpected ways, and unless they are at once taken in hand they soon become unmanageable and ride over his whole nature,

so that he no longer has the power to do those things which he knows to be his duty.

## August 13.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.—Isa. liii. 3.

There are times when you hear men say, "It is impossible that Christ should have ever had this temptation which has come to me." Yet think for a moment! Was He not the man of sorrows, and in His all-abounding sympathy did He not endure every possible pain that can come to any one?

#### August 14.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they

may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.—St. John xvii. 24.

If a great joy has come into our lives we long to have our dear ones share it with us. By so doing we often increase the joy a thousandfold. A person who is entirely selfish in his happiness loses more than he has any idea of, and narrows his interests down into a little world of his own.

## August 15.

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.—Psa. xliii. 3.

When difficult questions arise, with what a longing do we crave for light and wisdom! Anything, anything, if only the way could be made clear before us, and we could be sure that there was no fear of

making a mistake. At such critical times, what we need most is a quiet, unwavering trust, which helps us to leave the unknown future in God's hands.

#### August 16.

For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.—Neh. iv. 18.

While waiting for some expected event to take place, let us perform faithfully the duties that come by the way, and not sit with hands listlessly folded doing nothing. By working we will be preparing ourselves for a better appreciation of the anticipated blessing.

#### August 17.

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the

ear, after that the full corn in the ear.—St. Mark iv. 28.

It is difficult sometimes to realize that there is a natural law in the spiritual as well as in the material world. We expect to make great jumps in our growth, and then we become discouraged to see how far short of the mark we have fallen. The progress, very likely, is scarcely perceptible, but as long as it is progress we should be thankful for that, and let it serve to inspire us to renewed effort.

## August 18.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.—St. Matt. xxv. 40.

How a small act becomes at once glorified when we realize that the Master takes it as done to Himself! It makes little difference then if the sacrifice we have made is not appreciated by the recipient, for does

not Jesus Christ know all about it? He will give us the joy and peace which come to those who are striving to follow in His footsteps.

## August 19.

The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?— St. John xviii. 11.

The more we rebel against sorrow, the more firmly does it take hold of us. Sorrow generally produces extreme results: it either embitters a man's whole nature, or else it wonderfully sweetens it. Each man must fight out his own battles, but let him see to it that he comes out on the right side, strengthened by the conflict.

#### August 20.

I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of

the Lord, keep not silence.—Isa. lxii. 6.

It is a man's duty, as well as privilege, to warn his fellowmen at the approach of danger; all the more so if he has experienced the same danger himself and knows how disastrous the consequences are in being taken by surprise. It is often just as criminal to keep silence as to tell a downright lie.

#### August 21.

Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things.—Prov. xxviii. 5.

People who continually pride themselves on their good judgment and clear understanding are many a time found wanting in their supposed strong points. The man who talks least of his knowledge and goes quietly ahead performing his duties is far less likely to make mistakes than the man who spends his time in bragging about his accomplishments.

## August 22.

For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river. . . As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.— Isa. Ixvi. 12, 13.

Neither sorrow nor misfortune can harm one whose heart is filled with the peace which passeth all understanding. The steady current of peace carries all trouble down the stream of life and deposits it in the great ocean of oblivion.

#### August 23.

And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.—St. Mark xiii. 7.

It is hard for a man to accept patiently repeated trials, and not question in his mind the love of the Almighty for allowing so many troubles to come. Before a new territory can be gained it must be fought for, and the fiercer the battle the more appreciated is the possession. Some men have more enemies to face than others, but let them not grudge the fight, but use it for acquiring fresh strength.

## August 24.

When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.—Jonah ii, 7.

The command "Know thyself," is sometimes carried to such an extreme that men end in analyzing all their feelings and emotions, and thereby lose their spontaneity. Knowledge and action must go hand in hand, or introspection will

lead a person into a terribly morbid state.

## August 25.

One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.—St. Matt. xxiii. 8.

The belief will occasionally be found among children belonging to different churches that they worship another God from the one of their playmates. This shows how very necessary it is for parents not to enlarge on differences of creed, but to emphasize the strong bond of love to God and man which makes all the world akin.

## August 26.

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.—St. Mark xiii. 35, 37.

It is strange how often the people we least expect to be taken are called away! These sudden deaths should make us stop in our busy lives, and compel us to think more seriously of the great Beyond whither we are all bound.

## August 27.

And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.—Gen. xxxv. 15.

We treasure up as our most sacred moments those times when we have felt God so near to us that we have seemed to hear His voice of tender love whispering to us. Did we only give ourselves more rest amid our manifold occupations, we would doubtless hear Him speak far oftener.

# August 28.

"Make to yourselves friends of

the Mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

When we have money entrusted to us, our wisest course is to spend it for helping others. From a worldly standpoint we will gain the gratitude of those we benefit, and be able to appeal to them when we are in trouble ourselves. Spiritually, our sympathies will be enlarged, and life will grow far richer in meaning.

## August 29.

God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.—I. Peter v. 5, 6.

Humility does not consist in running one's self down and constantly enlarging on one's weaknesses. Such conduct destroys self-reliance, and reduces one to a negative piece of machinery. To be truly humble is to realize one's shortcomings in the light of God's perfection, and to determine in His strength to become strong.

## August 30.

O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?—Rom. ix. 20.

When we compare ourselves with others who are far more interesting and attractive, it is hard not to get discontented and wish we had been made very differently. The great lesson we must learn is to make the best of ourselves as we are, and not as we might have been. In this way we may be able to transform our very faults into virtues.

#### August 31.

And the light shineth in dark-

ness; and the darkness comprehended it not.—St. John i. 5.

How many silent unselfish lives there are who go through the world unnoticed and unappreciated! Their true worth is only recognized when they have been taken away; then people grow suddenly aware of the great gap that has been left and which it is impossible to fill. Alas! it is vain now to mourn over lost opportunities which never can be recalled.

## September 1.

O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?—St. Matt. xiv. 31.

After the sun has burst through the clouds, and the sky is once more clear, we wonder how we could ever have doubted God's love and wisdom, even when everything looked dark and dreary. At such times the blessings He suddenly showers on us seem so undeserved, that we almost hesitate in appropriating them, and when we do, we feel all the more ungrateful for having allowed feelings of distrust to enter our hearts.

# September 2.

Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?—St. Luke xiii. 7.

We see some lives full of rare promise, and we daily expect to hear of a great work they have achieved; but, alas! we wait in vain. They are content to live on the merit of undeveloped possibilities, and they never make the supreme effort which is required to call their talents forth into definite shape.

## September 3.

Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart:

for consider how great things he hath done for you.—I. Sam. xii. 24.

Do you ever pause in your busy life to think over the countless blessings God has showered upon you, or do you take them all as a matter of course, and forget to thank Him with all your heart for His great goodness? Nothing enriches the soul like gratitude, and nothing shrivels it up like ingratitude. Won't you adopt this very day the enriching method?

# September 4.

And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

—St. Luke xiii. 20, 21.

When men who have been weak and wayward are urged to reform, they answer: "But it's no use trying, I know I should only fail." If only they would decide to take themselves in hand, and face each fault separately, they would be surprised to see how quickly a little leaven of goodness will help in leavening the whole lump.

# September 5.

Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.—St. John ii. 5.

If you feel that you have a distinct call from God to undertake a difficult work, go ahead armed in His strength, and strive to fulfill your mission. Obstacles seen from afar may look insurmountable, but when you approach them, you will suddenly discover a gateway which will lead you into still wider fields of happiness and usefulness.

# September 6.

We are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.—I. Cor. iii. 9.

To be a co-worker with God is the highest privilege to which a man can aspire. Is it not wonderful that God should choose such poor human tools to carry out His great purposes, and that He should be willing to trust them with such important responsibilities? Let them see to it that they fail not in their trust.

# September 7.

I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.—Eccl. ii. 1.

Some men, after experiencing a series of disappointments, feel that the only way to forget themselves is to plunge into the wild whirlpool of excitement. For a time this course may seem to work fairly well, but all unconsciously the heart-void is daily growing wider, and demanding something more substantial than pleasure to feed it. Do not mistake this soul hunger, but satisfy it with the bread of life.

## September 8.

The grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee. . . . The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day.—Isa. xxxviii. 18, 19.

"Some day" generally means "no day." If you ever intend to make anything out of your life, begin this very moment! Time is running its course, and no amount of laziness or procrastination on your part will serve to stop its swiftly-revolving wheels. The future will only be yours if you are faithful in your use of the present.

# September 9.

Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.—St. John i. 46.

Some people are born with incredulous minds; they seem incap-

able of believing anything unless they can prove the reality of its existence with their own eyes. Alas, there are things in life which no amount of seeing can explain! It would be well for them if they could learn to appreciate that fact now, before they find themselves plunged in the darkness of despair.

# September 10.

Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.—I. Sam. xvii. 45.

Our worldly enemies rely largely on their physical force to frighten us into a surrender. Let us not be deceived by this outward show, but prove our courage by going forth to the battle armed with the shield of faith and the sword of the spirit. No foe can long withstand these weapons, if we only wield them aright.

## September 11.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.—Psa. cxxi. 8.

It is not necessary for you to worry about what is coming, because as God has watched over you in the past, he has promised to take care of you in the future. As you gain new victories over temptations, you will also acquire an ever-increasing courage to meet fresh difficulties, and thus you will go on from strength to strength.

# September 12.

And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of

God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first; and there are first which shall be last.—St. Luke xiii. 29, 30.

We shall doubtless meet with many surprises in that day when we all meet beyond the River. People who scarcely attracted our notice here, and whom we thought did not amount to much, will be found occupying the highest places there; and those on whom we had showered our praises here, will be discovered in the lowest seats, handing in their one poor talent, bound in a napkin.

# September 13.

If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldst have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.—St. John iv. 10.

Did we only realize more fully

the blessings which Christ so constantly offers us, we would be more ready to claim them for our own, and profit by them. But we continue to live on in our small grooves, and our eyes become so accustomed to our narrow horizons that we forget that there are vaster worlds beyond. God grant that the scales may fall from our eyes, and that we may see things in their true light.

# September 14.

Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? — Job xi. 7.

It is impossible to compare the infinite with the finite, to bring God down to earth by contrasting Him with mortal men. If we cannot understand His dealings with us, instead of rebelling against His apparent injustice, let us pray for strength and patience to carry us through the period of darkness.

## September 15.

Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.—Prov. xxvii. 9.

One of the great privileges of friendship is the power and freedom one friend has in giving advice to another. This can be done in such a kindly spirit that no sting is felt; whereas, if the same thing were told by an outsider, it would be terribly resented, and might result in more harm than good.

### September 16.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.—Psa. xli. 1.

It is our duty, as well as privilege, to help those who have not the same advantages which we enjoy. Our own happiness will be doubled by sharing our blessings with others, and our views of life will be broadened by coming into close contact with new phases of character and with different surroundings.

## September 17.

And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought . . . and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.—Isa. lviii. 11.

Those who rely solely on themselves, are sure some day to run dry; they may look for new cisterns, but alas! none can be found. We need constant replenishing from without, from the Great Fountain, whose waters flow ceaselessly. Having quenched our thirst in this life-giving stream, we are prepared to meet any trial or emergency which may come.

### September 18.

A man can receive nothing, ex-

cept it be given him from heaven.— St. John iii. 27.

We speak of "fortune favoring us," and "getting things by good luck," and forget that "every good gift and every perfect gift cometh from above." If we made gratitude figure more largely in our lives, our spiritual growth would be far greater. Appreciation of one's blessings opens the way for the enjoyment of new blessings.

## September 19.

I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.—I. Cor. iii. 10.

We should be satisfied, as well as thankful, if we have been permitted even so much as to lay a foundation for another to build upon. When the structure has been reared, we may not receive any credit from the world for our share

of the work, but for all that, the consciousness that God knows, and the happiness of seeing mankind profit by our toil, should amply compensate us for all our pains.

# September 20.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth, even for ever.—Psa. cxxv. 2.

Mountains give one a feeling of strength and everlastingness to which nothing else in nature can approach. It was a happy thought of the Psalmist to compare them with God's loving care of His people. Surrounded by His all-pervading presence, we need have no cause for fear, but we may rest in perfect safety.

# September 21.

Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.—St. John iv. 26.

The Master is no longer with us

in person, but He continues to speak to us in various ways. Sometimes it is through the voices of our friends, sometimes by the still, small voice in our hearts, and yet again through the experiences that come to us, or in the books that we read. If our soul's sight is only clear, we can hear and feel His dear presence, and gain fresh strength from holding communion with Him.

## September 22.

I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.—St. John iv. 38.

It sometimes seems unfair to us that one man should reap all the benefits of another man's hard toil, without he himself having to do any dreary drudgery. Let us believe that God, in His infinite wisdom, knows what is best for each of His children, and that He will give them the work best calculated to develop their spiritual talents.

# September 23.

This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.—St. Luke xxii. 19.

When we think of the wonderful love Jesus has shown us in His life of self-sacrifice, is it not our duty to obey His dying command, and "do this in remembrance of Him"? Dear friend, if you have not already come out on the Lord's side, will you not do so now, and confess Him before all the world as your Saviour and Master?

# September 24.

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.—I. John iv. 12.

Humanity is often the ladder by which we reach divinity. Some

people lead such noble, unselfish lives that it is almost impossible for a man who lives with them any length of time not to be influenced by their Christ-likeness. They are channels which transmit God's message of love to the world.

## September 25.

In everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.—I. Cor. i. 5.

Many people do not seem to desire this enriching, but appear to be content to live their commonplace lives, surrounded by the narrow walls of prejudice and bigotry. If a man would only open every window of his soul, instead of one or two windows in the same direction, then the truth would pour in on all sides, and transfigure his whole nature.

## September 26.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but

he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.—I. Cor. iii. 15.

If you grant that every man has a spark of the divine in him, you cannot believe that any one can be eternally lost and destroyed. The inextinguishable fire will always burn up the dross, but the gold, no matter how infinitesimally small it may be, must be saved because it is a part of God.

# September 27.

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.

—Psa. xix. 12.

We too often allow ourselves to indulge in uncharitable thoughts about other people, without meaning to give them utterance. But some day, perhaps unexpectedly, the thoughts will suddenly find expression, and inflict a deep wound. Regrets will then come too late, and the pain we have caused others will reflect on ourselves.

# September 28.

David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.—I. Sam. xvii. 37.

Each past danger from which we have been saved inspires us with new courage to meet the coming danger. Experience teaches confidence, and drives away fear. He is often a hard schoolmaster, but some day we will thank him for the blows, because without them we never would have learned our lesson.

## September 29.

The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee. Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfill all thy counsel.—Psa. xx. 1, 4.

What a wonderful feeling comes

over us when God sends an answer to a long-cherished prayer! The waiting has helped us to appreciate all the more intensely the desired blessing, and our hearts go up in a burst of gratitude to the Giver of all good. Pain often brings us joy in disguise, but it is not until the first sharp stroke is past that we are conscious of this fact.

## September 30.

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. —St. Matt. xv. 18.

If a man is constantly found saying little disagreeable things at other people's expense, it is a sure sign that his heart is not quite right, and needs resetting. The habit of picking to pieces one's neighbor's character is all too easily formed, and it often requires a real struggle to curb in the tongue. But the

sooner this is done, the better will it be for everybody concerned.

### October 1.

Where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.—
Jas. iii. 16.

A fault finding atmosphere is fatal to happiness. If you are inclined to dwell on the weaknesses of the people with whom you live, try to conquer the habit, before it has a chance of conquering you.

### October 2.

Some said, he is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.—St. John vii. 12.

What different, and often contradictory, opinions people sometimes entertain of us! This is our own fault when we try so hard to be all things to all men that we end in losing our own identity. It is natural that different people should

draw out different sides of our character, but we should be careful to have the sides harmonize, and not let ourselves say one thing to one person and diametrically the opposite to another.

#### October 3.

Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?—Jas. iii. 10, 11.

In life one comes across very frequently mixed fountains, and it is sometimes hard to know whether the water will be sweet or bitter. The source which supplies the water appears to be extremely variable, and, apparently it is governed by very unfixed laws.

#### October 4.

Be thou strong, therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments.—I. Kings ii. 2, 3.

Moral strength is far more important than any mere physical strength. Just as athletes exercise the body to keep themselves in training, so Christians should take pains to give regular exercise to the soul. Every faculty is apt to get rusty through disuse; a man should try to be very conscientious in the discharge of each duty.

#### October 5.

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.—Prov. xxvi. 4, 5.

In reading the Bible many good people are at a loss how to explain these apparent contradictions. Different phases of life often call for

different methods of treatment, and a man must learn to apply his words to the best good of his hearer. The foolish sayings of some people had better be utterly ignored; while there are other fools who require a good dash of cold water to get the nonsense out of them!

#### October 6.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.—St. John xiv. 26.

Comforter means strength giver. The original Paraclete is one who comes at another's call. Jesus knowing how lonely His disciples would be when He left them, spoke to them words of comfort which, though they might not mean much at the time being, would later on bring them peace and hope.

### October 7.

For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world.—St. John vi. 33.

O, you who are hungry for God, why do you try to satisfy your soul with worldly food? The bread of life is now being offered you without money and without price. All that you have to do is just to take it, and yet you hesitate, yes, you even refuse! Don't you realize your own foolishness and see how you are bringing on yourself needless suffering?

#### October 8.

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.—St. John v. 30.

If we sought the Father's will in everything that we did, we would not so often err in our judgments. It is so easy for us to criticise from selfish reasons, especially when we feel ourselves so well protected behind a wall of defense that no returning shafts can hurt us. Let us pray more for the spirit that was in Christ Jesus, and having this spirit our judgment cannot fail being just.

#### October 9.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.—Dan. xii. 3.

The way to change a man is not to enlarge on his weaknesses, but to make goodness so attractive that of his own free will he will want to adopt the higher life. Overcoming evil with good is a far wiser method than overcoming

evil by dilating on its horrors. Light alone causes darkness to disappear, and in the end is always sure to triumph.

#### October 10.

With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.— Isa. xxvi. 9.

Have you ever experienced such an intense longing for God that you could not rest night or day until you felt sure of the nearness of His presence? These hours of darkness and suffering leave an indelible impression on the soul, and after the light has appeared, the man suddenly finds he has gained a new strength and peace which have helped to enlarge his spiritual vision.

#### October 11.

Jesus answered and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.—St. John vi. 26.

How many people are there who "take up religion" in the hopes of gaining material advantage? For a time they may meet with a certain kind of outward success, but their soul-hunger will continue unsatisfied. One day they will awaken to the fact that the loaves have disappeared, and that they have been left empty-handed and empty-hearted, far from their Father's house.

#### October 12.

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.—Rev. xxi. 22.

As soon as we reach that state of growth when we continually feel

God's indwelling presence, then we will no longer require churches and formulas to help us think of Him. Our present life, however, is so full of worldly cares and distractions, that it does us all good to meet together at certain seasons for prayer and thanksgiving.

#### October 13.

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.—Psa. iv. I.

Sorrow, if taken in the right way enlarges the heart, but taken the wrong way, contracts it. The choice lies with the individual. Did each person only realize the tremendous issue at stake, he would more often make the supreme effort necessary to throw off the phantom of bitterness and despair.

### October 14.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.—Rev. xxi. 3.

As soon as a man feels this nearness of God's presence the whole world is changed for him. No matter how many sorrows and temptations may come to him he has no fear, because of his unfailing confidence in the God who has heretofore helped him.

#### October 15.

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word. And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches . . . choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.—St. Mark iv. 18, 19.

When a man's inmost being has been stirred by words of persuasive eloquence he is apt to feel that the impression must necessarily be lasting, and that in the future it will be easy for him to withstand temptation. Alas! the feeling all too soon wears off, and one by one, like stealthy thorns, the cares of this world work themselves in, till the good effect is all but destroyed.

### October 16.

If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear.—St. Mark iv. 23, 24.

Ears should be taught the art of sifting, so that just the good and true will penetrate through them, and the bad and false be excluded. The mind now has often a difficult time in separating the conflicting elements, whereas if this sifting process were adopted,

the ears would relieve it of not a little labor.

### October 17.

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.—Rev. xxii.

# 3, 4.

How invariably character reveals itself in expression! There is no mistaking a loving Christ-like nature. God's name in very truth seems engraven on his forehead. Constant service under a divine master, must produce its reflex influence sooner or later.

### October 18.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.—Rev. xxi. 7.

When we come over a difficulty or temptation and view it from the other side, how differently it looks! It is sometimes almost unrecognizable, and we wonder why it once seemed so formidable and insurmountable. Just the fact of having faced it and conquered it has given us strength and thrown new light on what was obscure.

#### October 19.

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.—Psa. iv. 8.

It is a dreadful state of mind to get into when a person is afraid to be left alone. It either shows that he dreads the companionship of his own thoughts, or else he has become so entirely dependent on other people that he is unhappy and restless when left to himself. There are times when it would do every one good to go

off in the solitude and think out the perplexing questions which may trouble him.

#### October 20.

Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.—St. John vi. 12.

We idle away so many precious moments by busily doing nothing! This habit of wasting time is one that takes firmer hold of a person as the years go by, and one which destroys his capacity for useful concentrated service. There is a vast difference between resting and lounging: the former is most necessary and helpful, whereas the latter is useless and very undermining.

#### October 21.

There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, . . . lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.—II. Cor. xii. 7, 8, 9.

To nearly all of us is given some thorn in the flesh; it may be a physical calamity, or else a mental failing. Whatever it is, do not let it make you disconsolate, but resolve in spite of it to make the very most of your life, relying for strength on the all-sufficiency of God's grace.

## October 22.

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.—St. John vi. 63.

Jesus Christ was aware that His followers dwelt too much on His personal presence, and did not think enough of the spirit of His teachings. He often warned them to guard against this error, but not until He had left them did they begin to realize the truth of His words. Are we not apt to make the same mistake, and is not Christ's warning meant for us as well as for the disciples?

### October 23.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.—St. John vi. 51.

In coming to the Lord's table we acknowledge ourselves as part of the mystical body of Christ. As we commune with Him and feel the nearness of His presence, our souls gain new strength, and we become better fitted to meet the trials and temptations that await us in the outside world. If we

are to manifest Christ to others, we must first know Him for ourselves.

### October 24.

When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.—Psa. lvi. 9.

After praying God to help us in overcoming our enemies, instead of being filled with faith and courage, we continue to harbor doubts and fears, and expect at any moment to be taken by surprise. Such often is the consistency of Christians! Ask this very day for a deeper faith and go forth to the conflict believing that God will make good His word to you. Armed with His strength you will surely conquer.

### October 25.

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.—St. John vii. 24.

When one has no particular affection for a person, it is so much easier to criticise his actions harshly, than if one cares at all for him. Love modifies the judgment and brings to light every trace of latent good that still resides in the accused. For this reason Jesus has commanded us to love even our enemies, and to treat one another as brethren; then our judgment must needs be righteous.

### October 26.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.—Psa. xc. 2.

It would do us all good were we to dwell more often on the everlastingness of God. We would then be less apt to criticise the divine from a human standpoint, and the truths which our limited minds

are unable to reason about, we would be more willing to take on faith.

## October 27.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.—Psa. xci. 5, 6.

If a man sincerely believes in God's protective power, things can no longer hold any terror for him. He has conquered fear with the mighty weapon of faith. People who have a constant dread that some ill is going to befall them, possess but a faint, faltering trust in their heavenly Father's care.

### October 28.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.—Psa. xc. 12.

How often do we feel like echoing Tennyson's words:

"So many worlds, so much to do, So little done, such things to be!"

Instead of allowing ourselves to be cast down with the hopelessness of our task, let us be up and doing, and strive to make the very most of the days that are ours. If we are called away before our work is finished, God will entrust its completion to somebody else.

### October 29.

Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.—I. Kings xvii. 14.

After unburdening his heart in prayer a man should be willing to leave the future in God's hands, instead of wondering whether his

needs will be adequately supplied, and if the proper care will be taken of him.

## October 30.

Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.—I. Sam. ii. 3.

A boastful person is a general nuisance, and society tries to shun him on every possible occasion. It is not for a man to proclaim his virtues; if he has any, the world will give him credit for them without any such publication.

### October 31.

But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.—St. Matt. xii. 7.

Some people who have very rigid ideas on certain religious sub-

jects condemn most sternly those who do not entertain the same strict views. Christ, instead of laying down innumerable laws for His followers, made each disciple a law to himself.

### November 1.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—St. Matt. xi. 28.

How sweet and comforting these loving words of the Lord Jesus sound to the soul, tempest-tossed on life's journey! It is just such an invitation that so many weary ones long for, and yet they fail to see that it is extended to them, and that the rest may be had for the asking.

### November 2.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.—St. John ix. 4.

When a man begins to realize how very much there is to do, and how little time in which to do it, he feels oppressed with the weight of his responsibility. Let this feeling, instead of crushing him, spur him on to immediate action.

### November 3.

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!—Psa. xxxi. 19.

Every one can, more or less, create an atmosphere of sunshine about them. If your material advantages are small, you can learn to make the best of them, and not worry other people with your shortcomings. Enlarge on your blessings, and you will thus forget your limitations.

## November 4.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.—St. John xiv. 1, 2.

Could any words be more tender and comforting than these, which Jesus spoke to His disciples on the eve of His betrayal? When you have time, sit down and read prayerfully all this last wonderful discourse.

#### November 5.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.—Psa. cxxi. 1, 2.

If we accustomed ourselves to looking up instead of down when

things went wrong, we would sooner find a solution to our difficulties. Worry prevents one from seeing things clearly; it is also apt to make mountains out of molehills.

## November 6.

A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!—Prov. xv. 23.

It is a great gift to know when and how to speak a word of loving advice or sympathy. Cultivate the power of so putting yourself in another person's place, that you will unconsciously feel just what is the right thing to say.

# November 7.

The Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.—I. Kings xix. 11, 12.

The hurry and bustle of life engross us so much that we often fail to hear the still, small voice calling us apart to commune with God. Our lives would be far more influential if we listened oftener to its guidance.

### November 8.

Avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.—Titus iii. 9.

How many of us waste our time and strength in worrying over unimportant details! The well-balanced man is one who knows how to give things their proper value, and who sees every truth in its right perspective.

## November 9.

The Master is come, and calleth for thee.—St. John xi. 28.

Not until a truth is personally applied does it become of any practical use. It is *you* the Master is calling. If you ask somebody else to answer the summons, you will thereby lose the promised blessing.

### November 10.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.—Psa. cxix. 105.

Many people get into the habit of reading the Bible carelessly and at random, and then they are surprised that they do not derive more help from its pages. If this applies to you, will you not, from now on, take it up in a prayerful spirit, and try to hear God's voice speaking to you?

### November 11.

The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.—St. John vii. 46.

The highest tribute that can be paid to a man's character is when his enemies speak well of him. There was such convincing power in the words of Jesus, that even the officers had to recognize His greatness and acknowledge His divinity.

## November 12.

He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.—Prov. xvi. 20.

The idea that religion has a saddening effect, is fast becoming an exploded theory. Nothing brings one such sustained happiness as the love of Christ. Before it, the clouds of doubt and despair melt away, and the future begins once more to look bright and hopeful.

# November 13.

Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.—Prov. xvi. 24.

To see how chary some men are of speaking kind words to those about them, one would think that it cost them a painful effort, and, furthermore, that they preferred not making the effort! How much happier they would be if they only recognized their foolishness, and tried to act differently!

## November 14.

He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.—II. Sam. xxiii. 3.

If men thought less of their own personal gain, and more of the national welfare, politics would at once be raised to a higher level. This country needs men of the highest type to enter the arena, and transform the corruption now prevalent into virtue and honor.

### November 15.

We were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears. Nevertheless God... comforted us.—II. Cor. vii. 5, 6.

To nearly every thinking person there comes a season of doubt, when he begins to question if there is a God; then, if so, why should He allow so much suffering and unhappiness to be in the world. Instead of troubling yourself over the solution of these problems, do all in your power to lessen the sorrow of those about you.

### November 16.

As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried; he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.—Psa. xviii. 30.

We must test our earthly friendships in order to prove their sincerity. But the word of the Lord has been tried through the ages, and stands so sure that we need have no fear of placing in it our whole confidence.

### November 17.

Ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.—
Jas. iv. 15.

Time and time again we make plans without consulting the divine will; then we are surprised that God does not bless our undertaking. If we made it a rule of our lives to take everything to God in prayer, and then await His guidance, we would be spared many a bitter disappointment.

### November 18.

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.—Psa. xviii. 16, 19.

When we consider the loving and watchful care that God bestows on each of His children, we begin somewhat to realize what great things He must expect of us, and how He has some important duty for each one to fulfill.

## November 19.

A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.—Prov. xvii. 17.

Such a feeling of safety comes over one at the thought of a true friend's loyalty! Whatever may happen, one is convinced that his faithfulness will never waver, and that he will always be present to hold out a helping hand over the rough and thorny places.

## November 20.

Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with

the oil of gladness above thy fellows.—Psa. xlv. 7,

How often this sentiment is expressed: it is the good people who have all the suffering, whereas the bad generally go free. Even if this were true, what kind of gladness do the wicked experience, in comparison to the joy that comes to the Christian?

## November 21.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.—St. John xvii. 15.

Parents often show their love for their children in a mistaken way. Instead of teaching them how to overcome temptation, they try to shield them from all temptation whatsoever. Then when the child develops into manhood, he suddenly finds himself utterly lacking in self-reliance, and unable to cope with the difficulties that surround him.

### November 22.

Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?—St. John xi. 26.

It is one thing to believe a truth with our minds, and quite another thing to grasp it with our hearts. The effect of one is fleeting; that of the other is everlasting. Until you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your own Master, you will never be able to understand the inner meaning of His teachings.

## November 23.

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord. . . . And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.—St. Luke xxii. 61, 62.

It often makes a far deeper impression if a person does not say anything, but merely gives one a look of reproof. Imagine what

that look of Jesus must have meant to the conscience-stricken Peter! There is a soul tragedy in those few words which describe his remorse, "And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."

## November 24.

Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal.—I. Kings xix. 18.

Men who have seen a great deal of the dark side of life, are apt to undervalue the number of good people there are still in the world. Having a few strong premises, they jump to sweeping conclusions, and thus blind themselves to the real state of things.

## November 25.

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.—Psa. lxxii. 12.

It enlarges a man's horizon and deepens his sympathy to come in personal contact with one who is worse off than himself. We should make the most of our opportunities of helping others, and never turn a cold shoulder on the worthy poor.

### November 26.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.—II. Peter ii. 21.

According to the light you have received, will you be held accountable for your actions. See to it that you do not underestimate this light, and thus shrink from your responsibilities. It is impossible for you to evade God's all-seeing eye.

## November 27.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another.—
Jas. v. 16.

By talking over our failings with our friends, they are often able to give us a word of advice which will help us to get the better of our weaknesses. If left alone, we are apt to get so used to them that we forget to keep a proper guard, to warn us against the approach of the enemy.

### November 28.

One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.—Rev. ix. 12.

God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able.—I. Cor. x. 13.

Some people seem to have one trouble after another, until they feel like sinking under the terrible load.

It is then that God's comforting words, "My grace is sufficient for thee," bring them new strength, and enable them once more to face the future.

## November 29.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.—Psa. cxi. 10.

Some people seek wisdom by retiring from the world and poring over books; others by leading a life of such constant activity that they have no time left for thinking. The best way is to keep the fear of the Lord uppermost in the mind, and engage in those pursuits which will do most to hasten the coming of God's kingdom here on the earth.

## November 30.

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.
—II. Cor. iii. 2.

The highest tribute to a friendship is for a man to let his life be so influenced by his friend that his every action will be purer and nobler. In this way you will be able to know a man by and through his friends.

### December 1.

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.—Prov. iii. 3.

It is one thing to know a truth merely with the understanding, and quite another to know it with the heart. Worldly wisdom is fleeting, but spiritual wisdom brings with it that peace which endures forever.

### December 2.

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.—Psa. xvi. 6.

It is the privilege of happy people to transmit their happiness to others. By doing this they will constantly receive a fresh supply, until their presence becomes so invigorating that everybody will love to have them near.

### December 3.

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.—Col. i. 11.

There is a vast difference between joyful resignation and a hopeless accepting of the inevitable. The one is a type of a Christlike character; the other that of a soured fatalist.

### December 4.

That they may teach the young women . . . to be discreet . . . keepers at home.—Titus ii. 4, 5.

It is a very bad habit for a person to so get into the way of going out every night that it becomes impossible for him to find any pleasure in spending a quiet evening at home. One's first duty is to one's family. Far too many young people forget this, and give society the preeminence.

### December 5.

I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.—St. Luke xii. 19.

Perhaps you have never expressed in so many words the sentiments of this rich man in the parable, but are you quite sure that all the while your actions are not giving a silent assent?

### December 6.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.—Psa. cxvi. 15.

It is a blessed privilege to have come in close contact with one whose life has been noble and Christ-like, and whose death has been a peaceful transition into the world beyond. To have kept one's childlike faith to the end is indeed to have gloriously conquered.

## December 7.

Jesus wept.—St. John xi. 35.

In times of keen sorrow what we crave is personal sympathy. The knowledge that Jesus wept with His friends is wonderfully comforting. It makes us feel that we can go to Him with everything, and that He will understand the full extent of all our suffering.

### December 8.

That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?—Eccl. vii. 24.

Many men puzzle their brains and devote all their energies towards the solution of some intricate problem which is not of the least practical import. It is a great thing to

learn how to distinguish between the essential and the non-essential and to give each its proper weight.

## December 9.

I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

—Deut. v. 6.

How many of us have been led by God's pillar of fire out of the land of bondage and suffering into the promised land of liberty and joy! Let us prove by a life of love and devotion our thankfulness for the many mercies which have been showered upon us.

### December 10.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad.—I. Kings iii. 9.

If every ruler felt that he was responsible to God for his actions,

and asked continually for divine guidance, he not only would make much fewer mistakes, but he would help raise the whole sphere of politics to a higher plane.

## December 11.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied.—Isa. liii. 11.

After we have toiled long and painfully over a difficult undertaking, what a joy it is to see some results of our labor, and thus have the assurance that it has not been wholly in vain. Armed with the new courage which this knowledge brings, we feel well able to cope with any fresh difficulties which may arise.

### December 12.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.—I. Cor. xv. 19.

We not only need a faith which will help us through this life, but a

faith which will act as a beacon light to guide us to the other shore. A real belief in Christ and His resurrection implies a belief in immortality.

## December 13.

Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.—II. Cor. xiii. 5.

It is not enough for us to come forward once and confess Christ as our Saviour. Because it is so easy to fall into bad habits, we should have stated seasons of examination to see if we are being true to our profession, and if we are making progress in the new life.

### December 14.

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.— Eph. iv. 13.

Nothing is so inspiring as the force of example. We should strive to so enter into the spirit of Christ's teachings that we will receive a fresh impetus to fashion our lives more after the divine pattern.

### December 15.

And [Jesus] said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all.—St. Luke xxi. 3.

'Tis how we give, not what we give—the spirit, not the amount—that God looks for. Only when we give ourselves with our means, do we receive the promised blessing.

## December 16.

Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.—St. Luke xvii. 35.

How inexpressibly hard it is for the one who is left! At times it seems strange that the useful life should be taken, and the life on whom comparatively little depends should be spared. It is thus we are apt to reason, but are we not sure that God knows best?

## December 17.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.—Eph. iv. 31.

Some people create such an atmosphere of ill-will about them, that when others come in contact with them, they almost unconsciously fall into the same habit of fault-finding.

## December 18.

Now, no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—Heb. xii. 11.

When the present looks dark and shadowy, it is good for us to think about the future and try to see the sun bursting through the clouds. Though sorrow endure for a night, joy is sure to come in the morning.

### December 19.

But these . . . speak evil of the things that they understand not.—
II. Peter ii. 12.

It is generally a proof of ignorance when a man condemns unconditionally other beliefs than his own. There is sure to be some good in every religion, and if, in arguing with people, a man tried first to find out the points on which they agreed, and then gradually touched on the points where they differed, no unpleasant feeling would be raised.

### December 20.

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in

man that walketh to direct his steps.—Jer. x. 23.

As soon as a man's self-reliance develops into self-sufficiency he begins to lose his moral equilibrium. Just because it is so easy to fall into extremes, we should try always to be on our guard, and not allow our thoughts to assume exaggerated proportions.

## December 21.

Be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.—Isa. lxv. 18.

The joy of living is sometimes so intoxicating that we feel it is a pleasure merely to exist. Let us drink in the wonderful beauties of nature which surround us, and for the time being, cast aside the doubts and perplexities which so constantly assail us in our busy life.

### December 22.

For all seek their own, not thee the things which are Jesus Christ's.

—Phil. ii. 21.

Selfishness contracts the heart: generosity expands it. The man who is always thinking of his own interests ends in revolving around a tiny self-centre; whereas the man whose sympathies are ever going out to his fellowmen reflects more and more the image of Jesus Christ.

## December 23.

Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.
—Isa. xlix. 13.

When trials come to us God does not want us to go about with doleful faces and mournful voices as those who have no hope. By

letting the spirit of the dear loved ones transfigure our own lives, we can best show our appreciation of their character.

#### December 24.

Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

—I. Cor. vi. 20.

When we have done a service to some one, we should not take pride in our unselfishness, but feel that we have only accomplished our duty. Surely our very best seems but little, when viewed in the light of all the blessings that God has showered on us.

# Christmas Day. December 25.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.—St. Luke ii. 10.

Have you opened your heart to

the Christ-child, and is He transforming your life? Not until you have made Him welcome will you realize the deep joy and peace that Christmas is meant to bring.

#### December 26.

Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.—Psa. xvii. 5.

The ways of the world are very slippery, and were it not for divine guidance, we would often be in danger of falling. How comforting it is to feel that God is always near, and that not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without His knowledge!

#### December 27.

Be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.—Eph. v. 18, 19.

Many a heart has been cheered by the uplifting power of beautiful music. Its tender strains have brought messages of peace where words of comfort have utterly failed.

#### December 28.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.—Isa. ix. 2.

Imagine what it must mean for a person to hear about God's love for the first time! No wonder it takes him some time to realize the full meaning of such a glorious truth.

### December 29.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.—Psa. xxiii. 6.

A true Christian has no fear of the future, because, having proved God's goodness in the past, he is confident that the divine hand will lead him safely through all dangers that may be ahead.

#### December 30.

Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days.—Eccl. xi. 1.

Do not grow faint-hearted, even if the many days seem interminable. It may be that in some manner wholly unexpected to you, God is at this very moment answering your prayer in the way that will be for your best good.

#### December 31.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.—Rev. xxii. 13.

A feeling of sadness comes over us when we think of the many changes which have come to us during the year. The knowledge, however, of God's unchanging love gives us courage to take a fresh start, and fills us with a determination to let the future profit by the experiences of the past.









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